Concepts in Programming Languages Revision Guide

§ Topic I. Introduction and motivation

Keywords:

• Programming-language concepts, design, methods, paradigms, influences; Application domains; Execution models; Foundations; Standardisation.

Tripos question:

- 2006 Paper 6 Question 7 (a)
- 2012 Paper 3 Question 6 (a)

§ Topic II. FORTRAN: A simple procedural language

Keywords:

• FORTRAN 77; Execution model; Compilation; Data types; Control structures; Syntax; Types; Storage; Aliasing; Parameters.

Tripos questions:

- 2006 Paper 6 Question 7 (b)
- 2007 Paper 5 Question 7 (a)
- 2007 Paper 6 Question 7 (c)
- 2009 Paper 3 Question 2(a)
- 2010 Paper 3 Question 5 (a)

§ Topic III. LISP: Functions, recursion, and lists

Keywords:

• LISP; Programming-Language phrases; S-expressions; quote; Static and Dynamic scope; Abstract machine; Recursion; Garbage collection; Programs as data; Reflection; Parameter passing.

Tripos questions:

- 2006 Paper 6 Question 7 (c)
- 2007 Paper 5 Question 7 (b)
- 2007 Paper 6 Question 7 (a)
- 2008 Paper 6 Question 7 (a)
- 2009 Paper 3 Question 2 (a)
- 2011 Paper 3 Question 6 (a(ii))

\S Topic IV. Block-structured procedural languages — Algol and Pascal

Keywords:

Parameters; Parameter-passing; Block structure; Algol 60; Recursion; Stack;
Type system; Algol 68; BNF syntax; Heap; Garbage collection; Pascal;
Quasi-strong typing; Variant records.

Tripos questions:

- 2006 Paper 6 Question 7 (b)
- 2007 Paper 6 Question 7 (b)
- 2008 Paper 5 Question 7 (a)
- 2010 Paper 3 Question 5 (a)
- 2012 Paper 3 Question 6 (c)
- 2013 Paper 3 Question 6 (b)
- 2007 Paper 5 Question 7 (c)
- 2008 Paper 6 Question 7 (b)
- 2009 Paper 3 Question 2 (c)
- 2011 Paper 3 Question 6 (a(i))
- 2013 Paper 3 Question 6 (a(i))

§ Topic V. Object-oriented languages — SIMULA and Smalltalk

Keywords:

Objects in SML; Dynamic lookup; Abstraction; Subtyping; Inheritance;
Subtyping vs. inheritance; SIMULA; Classes, objects and activation records;
Subclasses and inheritance; Type checking and subtyping; Smalltalk; Dynabook;
Syntax; Abstraction; Messages; Methods; Instance variables; Interfaces as types;
Subtyping.

Tripos questions:

- 2006 Paper 6 Question 7 (d)
- 2008 Paper 5 Question 7 (c)
- 2011 Paper 3 Question 6 (a)
- 2013 Paper 3 Question 6 (a(ii))
- 2007 Paper 6 Question 7 (d)
- 2010 Paper 3 Question 5 (b)
- 2012 Paper 3 Question 6(f)

§ Topic VI. Languages for concurrency and parallelism.

Keywords:

 Theoretical models; Threads, shared memory, message passing; Distributed memory, multi-core, cloud computing; Programming-language support for parallelism and distribution.

§ Topic VII. Types in programming languages

Keywords:

• Types; Type systems; Type safety; Type checking; Static vs. dynamic type checking; Type checking in SML; Type equality; Type declarations; Type inference; Type inference in SML; Polymorphism; let-polymorphism; Polymorphic exceptions.

Tripos questions:

- 2008 Paper 5 Question 7 (b)
- 2010 Paper 3 Question 5 (c)
- 2012 Paper 3 Question 6 (b)
- 2013 Paper 3 Question 6 (c)
- 2009 Paper 3 Question 2 (b)
- 2011 Paper 3 Question 6 (b)
- 2012 Paper 3 Question 6 (e)
- § Topic VIII. Data abstraction and modularity SML Modules

Keywords:

 Modules language; Signatures; Structures; Concrete and opaque signatures; Signature inclusion; Signature matching; Subtyping; Information hiding; Functors.

Tripos questions:

- 2007 Paper 5 Question 7 (d)
- 2010 Paper 3 Question 5(d)
- 2013 Paper 3 Question 6 (d)
- 2009 Paper 3 Question 2 (d)
- 2011 Paper 3 Question 6 (c)

§ Topic IX. Scala: a modern language design

Keywords:

• Scala; Procedural programming; Declarative programming; Mutable state; Blocks; Functions; Parameter passing; Classes and objects; abstract classes; traits; case classes; Pattern matching; Generic types and methods; Variance annotations; Functions as objects; Type parameter bounds; View bounds; Implicit parameters; Implicit conversions; Mixin-class composition.

Tripos questions:

- 2008 Paper 6 Question 7 (c)
- 2009 Paper 3 Question 2 (e)
- 2010 Paper 3 Question 5 (e)
- 2011 Paper 3 Question 6 (d)
- 2012 Paper 3 Question 6 (d)
- 2013 Paper 3 Question 6 (e)